

Application No. 10/787,046

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IN THE SPECIFICATION

On page 21, third full paragraph, please insert:

Namely, in the cross sectional high order structure in the carbon fiber, a structure such that a portion of carbon fiber shown in FIG. 2A is lacking or missing, i.e., notch structure is provided in advance. Thus, even if the carbon portion is high crystallinity, the structure distortion occurring by expansion/contraction taking place at the time of charge/discharge can be absorbed by its notch portion. As a result, reversibility of the charge/discharge cycle can be improved.

On page 58, fourth full paragraph, please insert:

Coal system pitch was held for five (5) hours at 425 °C. in the atmosphere of inactive gas to obtain coal system mesophase pitch having softening point of 220 °C. At this time, the mesophase percentage content was 92%. The coal system mesophase pitch thus obtained was caused to undergo fiber-forming by using a discharge tube 15 of the double structure composed of a discharge outer tube 15a and a discharge inner tube 15b as shown in the cross-section of FIG. 19A and the longitudinal section of FIG. 19B at 300 °C, thus to obtain precursor fiber.